

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH FLORIDA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 28 YEARS OF WORK

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for its 28 years of successful impact on South Florida's business community. Small business is the backbone of our country. The Chamber has supported small businesses and helped connect them to individuals in South Florida for almost three decades. It is my honor to recognize the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and highlight the good work they have done.

Established in 1994, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit 501 (c)(6) that promotes business leadership and economic growth and provides legislative advocacy for the Hispanic business community in South Florida. Since more than two-thirds of Miami-Dade County residents are of Hispanic origin, organizations like the Hispanic Chamber are crucial to the health of our local economy and civil society. Miami-Dade County has seen incredible growth over the past several years, in no small part because of the welcoming business climate. As the Miami area continues to expand, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will keep playing a pivotal role in growing commerce and creating opportunity among the Hispanic community.

The South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been an invaluable resource to the Hispanic community for close to 30 years. I am thankful to have attended many Chamber events and luncheons in my district, where I have seen firsthand how it develops business relationships among our Hispanic community. I look forward to another 28 years of continued business growth and excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LAWRENCE BUTLER, JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the almighty God has called to his eternal rest Mr. Lawrence Butler, Jr. Mr. Butler was the only son, one of three children, he had two sisters, Clara Butler Watts and Regina Butler Davis, and after attending Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana, he moved to Chicago, where he lived with his Uncle Harrison Shaw. Lawrence fell in love with Chicago and quickly went to work making a life for himself in the windy city. He went to work as a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority and was drafted into the Army where he served as a military policeman. After serving his country, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. He wore the badge with pride and honor for 34 years and enjoyed protecting and giving back to the city that he so cherished.

Lawrence's life truly began when he met and fell in love with a beautiful young woman

named Beverly. Lawrence and Beverly married September 21, 1975. Shortly afterwards, they purchased what would become their home, a beautiful Victorian in the historical Austin Shock District. Lawrence and Beverly have two daughters, Mary Ellen and Hilaree. Lawrence and Beverly and their daughters were neighbors of my family for many years, and I treasure their presence in our village and commend Lawrence for his service to our country, our city and our neighborhood where we live, work and pray.

RECOGNIZING JOHN KASSNER, JR.

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, John Kassner, Jr.

Born in 1925, John was the second oldest son in a family of 13, having three brothers and nine sisters. Moving to Manitowoc, Wisconsin at a very young age, John became known as a remarkable high school athlete and was involved in countless organizations, like the High School Dance Club. During John's senior year in high school, he answered the call to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. During his military service, John volunteered to become a paratrooper in the heralded 101st Airborne Division. On John's 19th birthday, he and his fellow soldiers parachuted into France behind German lines to evaluate strategic locations prior to the Allied invasion. I commend John for his commitment and selfless service to the United States of America.

Following John's career in the military, he moved back to the United States with the love of his life, Joan, to begin their life together. John began his business career as a door-to-door vacuum salesman, and eventually obtained his real-estate license and began his own brokerage company. Given John's knowledge and dedication to the industry, he soon became a leader among his peers. In the mid-1970's, John was elected President of the Brown County Home Builders Association. In the years to come, given John's success within the industry, he would become the State President of the Wisconsin Home Builders Association and Director of the National Home Builders Association. I commend John for his life-long dedication to his community and country and I offer my sincere condolences to his family during this time.

Madam Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank John Kassner, Jr. for his extraordinary commitment and service to his country. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all of the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING RICHMOND'S SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and

congratulate the Seven Hills School on the 20th Anniversary of their founding. Seven Hills School has not only provided exceptional education to middle school boys in our Richmond community but has created a strong community that will support their students long after they graduate.

The Seven Hills School first opened its doors in 2001 and over the last twenty years has created an environment that equips their graduates to succeed both in the classroom and beyond. Staff and teachers at Seven Hills School establish strong relationships between students and fosters curiosity and enthusiasm in the classroom.

After two decades, Seven Hills' teachers and staff remain dedicated to their mission of cultivating keen intellect and emotional strength in their students, as well as establishing a strong community within. With three hundred and eighty-eight alumni, Seven Hills School has established itself to be an institution designed to help middle school boys succeed with new approaches that provide hands-on and experiential learning that will stick with their students for life.

Madam Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seven Hills School and wishing them another twenty years of success educating bright young men.

HONORING MIRA YUSEF AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mira Yusef, co-founder of Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, as our Iowan of the Week.

Mira Yusef was just 13 years old when her family immigrated here from the Philippines. Like many families who immigrate to the United States, Mira's family was fleeing an oppressive dictatorship. She witnessed first-hand the atrocities committed around her, particularly how the women around her were treated and abused. These formative memories have stayed with her, and they fuel her passion for helping and advocating for victims of gender-based violence.

When Mira's family came to the United States, they came to Iowa as her mother married an Iowan who was in the U.S. Navy. She attended Roosevelt High School, and later she decided to go out to the San Francisco Bay Area where she had relatives. There, Mira was exposed to many other immigrants fleeing the same circumstances, which caused her to get more involved in advocacy and political issues. She came back to Iowa and was involved with the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, where she realized there weren't any Asian activists. This inspired her to start organizing specifically around issues related to Asian communities.

Mira went on to study these issues more closely, studying areas like human trafficking in multiple different counties around southeast Asia. She eventually graduated from the University of Michigan with two Master's degrees in Southeast Asian Studies and Social Work. Her experiences and dedicated work moved

her to start her own organization, which is now called Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity.

Mira's non-profit organization provides direct services to victims and survivors of gender-based violence. She started her organization out of an office in Des Moines, and now has offices in Iowa City and Dubuque with roughly 20 employees. Mira credits the success of the non-profit to the employees they've brought in. All of them are experts in their communities and are multilingual, creating a direct, accessible experience to those who are seeking help. Not only does she credit her employees with the success they've had in Iowa, but she also highlights how their work has made it possible for the organization to grow to provide more services in a broader scale. Thanks to her employee's hard work, along with federal funding, Mira was able to have their organization provide national assistance through National Asians Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV). They grew their assistance even further in 2019 as well, as her non-profit received funding for transnational work. Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity now serves victims in the Philippines, Indonesia, Micronesia, and Guam. The non-profit also works with the Alaya Women's Center in the Philippines focusing on sex trade issues.

Mira and her extraordinary team have built her non-profit organization from the community level to a global collaborative aimed at addressing some of the most heinous acts of violence imaginable. Their tremendous work nationally and globally is honorable, and they are just as passionate about addressing these issues at the community level, along with broader issues in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Mira's favorite aspect of her work is engaging the Asian youth in our own communities. She teaches them to be confident and comfortable with their identity, and she encourages them to find ways to help others through advocacy and non-profit organizations. She's even more proud after seeing youth she's worked with before grow up and do amazing things for their communities.

Mira, her team, and the non-profit they've developed do so much to better our own communities, and they work tirelessly every day to address the vilest acts committed around the globe. Mira's journey on this path is one of incredible inspiration, and her organization has more planned for the future. In 2018, her organization was gifted a house that they have renovated and plan to use as a community health clinic focusing on mental health. The house would also serve as a community office meeting space, and Mira and her team have more plans for developing further community engagement resources. I am in awe of the work Mira and her team at Monsoon Asian and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity do every day, and I am very honored to name Mira Yusef as this week's Iowan of the Week.

HONORING NORIO UYEMATSU

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Korean War Veteran Norio Uyematsu.

Norio was born in Cupertino, California, the oldest of four children raised by parents Niroku and Shitsuyo Uyematsu, who immigrated to America from Hiroshima, Japan. Norio is a second-generation Japanese American, or Nisei, and he is now one of the few surviving Japanese American veterans who served in the Korean War.

During World War II, when he was age 11, Norio's family was imprisoned for three years in a Japanese American concentration camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming. As they had no home to return to, the Uyematsu family relocated to Brigham City, Utah, in 1945. He graduated from Box Elder High School in Brigham City in 1948 and decided to enlist in the Army. He was only 17 and needed his parent's approval. His father signed his enlistment form immediately, but his mother would not sign until a month before his 18th birthday.

His service began January 3, 1949, when he went through basic and advanced training in Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. In April of 1950, his planned transfer to Okinawa, Japan, was abruptly changed with the invasion of North Korea into South Korea. Instead, he was transferred to Camp Drake in Japan and was assigned to guard Misawa Air Force Base in Northern Japan.

In July of 1951, his unit was sent to Korea to guard Kimp'o Air Base. Norio was then assigned to the 521st Military Intelligence Service to interrogate prisoners of war.

For his service, Norio, who achieved the rank of Corporal, was decorated with 10 medals. He was honorably discharged from the Army on July 27, 1952 and returned to Utah. From that day forward, Norio dedicated his life to remembering his fallen comrades and to keeping the Korean War veterans' memories alive.

The Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950 and concluded on July 27, 1953, became known as the "Forgotten War." But Norio never forgot that 33,600 American soldiers were killed in action fighting to prevent the North Korean Communist regime from taking over South Korea.

Of the 33,600 men who lost their lives defending South Korea, 247 of those soldiers were Japanese Americans. Because of their selfless sacrifice, the tide of communism on the Korean Peninsula was halted and liberty triumphed over tyranny. Today, the Republic of Korea is a free democracy because of the service of the 5,000 Japanese Americans and other honorable soldiers who fought in the Korean War. Now, a few months short of age 92, he is still working to make sure the sacrifices made by his fellow soldiers are remembered. To fulfill his mission, Norio has served as an active member in several veterans organizations: the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, the Korean War Veterans Association, the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council, the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 100, the American Legion, and the Japanese American Veterans Association, and the Kazuo Masuda VFW Memorial Post 3670, of which he was a three term commander. To continue his ties to his Utah roots, he is also a member of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Norio also continues his volunteer activism by supporting community projects and attending events, including the July 27, 2022 dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington, DC.

Throughout his life, Norio was supported in his work by his wife of 63 years, Hanako Rose Fujikawa Uyematsu, also from Brigham City. They raised three boys, Michael, Ronald, and Thomas, who gave them eleven grand-children and two great grandchildren. Rose passed away in 2020 at home in Anaheim, California.

For many, Norio Uyematsu's contributions to his community are not well known since he preferred to humbly work in the shadows. But his spirit of service will continue by the foundation he set reminding others of what Korean War veterans did over 68 years ago to defend Democracy and Freedom. The people of America and the Republic of Korea will be forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING IAN WILSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ian Wilson, who was my legislative staffer, for his service to Kentucky's Second District.

The Acton, Massachusetts native first started working for Kentucky's Second District as an intern in my D.C. Congressional office in the summer of 2018. The following year he returned to Capitol Hill to intern for Congressman ADAM KINZINGER. In 2020, Ian graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with degrees in political science and Middle Eastern studies.

Ian returned to my D.C. congressional office as a staff assistant in January 2022. In this role, he gave constituent tours, managed the U.S. flag order service, and communicated with constituents on policy being debated in Congress. Ian's team player attitude and strong work ethic made him a valuable member of the team. He was promoted to legislative correspondent and used his strong grasp on policy to assist me in responding to constituent inquiries quickly and thoroughly. I want to thank Ian for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as an intern, staff assistant, and legislative correspondent, and I wish him the best in the next chapter of his career.

CELEBRATING MR. DENNIS CAPRARA

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dennis Caprara, who passed away on April 12, 2021. The Salad Bowl of the World lost a key ingredient with the passing of Mr. Caprara, a revered industry leader and farmer in the Salinas Valley. In his 74 years, Mr. Caprara contributed so much to our leading industry of agriculture and our fundamental identity in the Salinas Valley.

A true local boy, Dennis grew up in Gonzales, California, where he grew fond of farming and grew to appreciate the hard work and sound judgment necessary to succeed in agriculture. Founding RC Farms and RC